

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 01829 140540Z

13-12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

INR-07 PA-01 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-13 /072 W

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O 140512Z SEP 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6369

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH SU

SUBJECT: PEKING REJECTS CONDOLENCE MESSAGES SIGNED BY SOVIET AND
EAST EUROPEAN CONTRAL COMMITTEES

1. FRIENDLY JOURNALIST BASED IN PEKING HAS ADVISED US THAT THE CHINESE HAVE REJECTED ALL MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE SIGNED BY THE RESPECTIVE CENTRAL COMMITTEES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND EAST EUROPEAN PARTIES (EXCEPTING RUMANIA AND ALBANIA, OF COURSE). JUDGING THESE MESSAGES TO BE A PROVOCATION -- CENTRAL COMMITTEE MESSAGES WERE NOT SENT FOR THE CHOU EN-LAI OR CHU TEH FUNERALS -- THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES HAVE RETURNED THEM ALL TO THEIR SENDERS.

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2. SOME EAST EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED TO JOURNALIST

THAT MESSAGES WERE IN FACT A DELIBERATE TRIAL BALLOON DESIGNED TO PROBE FOR EVIDENCE OF ANY PRO-SOVIET SYMPATHIES OR CONCILIATORY SENTIMENT IN POST-MAO LEADERSHIP. DECISION TO PUBLISH MESSAGES WOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN AS SUCH EVIDENCE.

3. AS OF SEPTEMBER 14 THE ONLY MESSAGE FROM SOVIET UNION OR EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRY (EXCEPT RUMANIA AND ALBANIA) PUBLISHED WAS SIGNED BY HUNGARIAN PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL AND COUNCIL OF MINISTER A GOVERNMENT ORGAN.

4. THIS SITUATION MAY ALSO EXPLAIN IN PART THE CHINESE DECISION TO INVITE SOVIETS AND THEIR EAST BLOC ALLIES TO PAY LAST RESPECTS TO MAO AT 1800 HOURS SEPTEMBER 13, BEHIND ALL OTHER MISSIONS INCLUDING USLO (SEE SEPTEL) AND IN SAME GROUP WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS.

GATES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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